# Behringer VM1 Delay Pedal | £53

Behringer promise to take you back in time when wobbly tapes ruled the world. ***Robbie Stamp*** checks for wow and flutter

**WHAT IS IT?**

**Delay/Echo stompbox with additional chorus/vibrato control**

**CONTACT**

**Who:** Behringer
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**HIGHLIGHTS**

1 Large feedback range
2 Separate Effect and Direct outputs
3 Durable build

**SPECS**

**Input:** ¼" TS (100kΩ impedance)

**Effect Output:** ¼" TS (1kΩ impedance)

**Direct Output:** ¼" TS (100kΩ impedance)

**Controls:** Level (input), Mix, Feedback, Chorus/Vibrato (Rate), Delay (Time)

**Dimensions:**
**200 x 172 x 61mm**

**Weight:**
**1.07 Kg**

**There is no mistaking the styling of the Vintage Time Machine as it is based heavily on a classic Electro-Harmonix** design. Billed as the Vintage Time Machine, Behringer are pitching this stompbox at the simulated tape delay/echo market where names such as Line 6 and Danelectro dominate.

The rear-panel provides a power socket for the supplied 9V PSU, an On/Off switch, three ¼" TS sockets for input, effect output and direct output, and a switch to select Chorus or Vibrato. The dedicated Effect and Direct outputs is another clear 'borrow' from the Electro-Harmonix school, and a welcome one at that as it allows for flexible routing. The controls are simple with nice big knobs for input level, effect mix, delay feedback, delay time and chorus/vibrato rate. There are also two LEDs, with one lighting red to indicate input overloading and the other glowing blue when the power is on and becoming brighter when the effect is switched on. It is important to note that the VM1 only runs from a PSU and there is provision for battery operation, though I'm not sure whether this is due to a high current draw or the expense of adding it in.

## Dub-ability

The delay ranges from very quick reverb-like repeats through slap-echoes to a maximum 450ms delay, which is easily enough for most applications. The decay character has a pleasing high frequency attenuation that gives it the 'vintage' moniker.

As the feedback knob passes six on the dial, the classic Dub-style sound-on-sound kicks in and there is plenty of headroom here to control the inevitable distorted build up which breaks up in a convincingly tape-like manner. This characteristic can be further enhanced by overloading the input, which produces some nice JFET (Junction Field Effect Transistor) style distortion even without turning up the delay feedback. My only concern about the delay is that I found it difficult to balance the effect against the dry signal even when fine tuning the Mix knob.

## Wobble

Though I was generally pleased by the delay effect, I found the Chorus/Vibrato a lot less inspiring. Firstly it must be pointed out that these effects are only part of the delay process and do not attempt to work as standalone effects, i.e. they become more apparent as the feedback is increased.

I am not sure whether these pitch effects, themselves a form of modulated delay, were included to mimic the inherent inconsistencies of tape delays or to just 'jazz-up' the pedal. Either way they are a little disappointing, especially the chorus. The Chorus/Vibrato knob controls the rate of the modulation and to some degree the intensity of the effect. The vibrato effect is a lot better than the chorus, which I found thin and over modulated.

## Delayed verdict

One cannot expect a stompbox to match the classic character of a Roland Space Echo or a WEM Copicat, and the Vintage Time Machine is not as versatile as something like the Line 6 DL4, but it is a lot more convincing than many stompboxes in its league.

Though the VM1 is well-built and has some retro cool to it, I think it could be a lot smaller. A separate Chorus/Vibrato intensity knob would also help, though I could happily lose the function entirely. That said, and despite my initial effect balance misgivings, I like the echo decay tone, feedback range and overall 'distort-ability' and at this price, it is definitely a lot cheaper than the competition. FM

**FutureMusic VERDICT**

BUILD
VALUE
EASE OF USE
VERSATILITY
RESULTS

**A good quality, bargain-price tape-style delay, but ignore the Chorus/Vibrato.**



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